MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

4

僕がト部美琴と付き合いはじめてから何度かの季節が過ぎた。無愛想だけど情熱的、いつだって思いもかけない言動で、彼女は僕を翻弄する。最初はミステリアスなト部に戸惑うことも多かったけど、今ではそれを含めて、彼女の一挙手一投足が眩しく見える。でも、心を重ねれば重ねるほど、彼女に近づけば近づくほど、心だけじゃない"つながり"を求めたくなってしまうんだ。だって、僕は思春期の男の子で、彼女も思春期の女の子なんだから――。

As the weeks went by, my interest in him and my curiosity as to his aims in life, gradually deepened and in-

sharp and piercing,save du

intervals of torpor to

alluded;a

gave his

alertnes

had the

which m

His hands

with ink and stained

cals,yet he was possessed of extraordinary delicacy of touch,as I frequently had occasion to observe when I watched him manipulating his fragile philosophical instruments.

The r may set me down as a hope body I confess how

cer for

jud ever, be it remem

b objectless was my life,

and how little there was to engage my attention.My health forbade me from venturing out unless the weather was exceptionally genial, and I had no friends who would call upon me and break the monotony of my daily existence.Under these circumstances, I eagerly hailed the little mystery which hung around my companion, and spent much of my time in endeavouring to unravel it.

He was not studying medicine. He had himself, in reply to a question, confirmed Stamford's opinion upon that point.Neither did he appear to have pursued any course of reading which might fit him for a degree in science or any other recognized portal which would give him an entrance into the learned world. Yet his zeal for certain studies was remarkable, and within eccentric limits his knowledge was so extraordinarily ample and minute that his observations have fairly astounded me. Surely no man would work so hard or attain such precise information unless he had some definite end in view. Desultory readers are seldom remarkable for the exactness of their learning. No man burdens his mind with small matters unless he has some very good reason for doing so.

His ignorance was as remarkable as his knowledge.Of contemporary literature, philosophy and politics he appeared to know next to nothing. Upon my quoting Thomas Carlyle,he inquired in the naivest way who he might be and what he had done. My surprise reached a climax, however, when I found incidentally that he was ignorant of the Copernican Theory and of the composition of the Solar System. That any civilized human being in this nineteenth century

tra

be

tha

"

said

prise. "Now that I do know it I shall do my

"To

"You see," he explained, "I consider that a man's brain originally is like a

lit you have to you

is bled u a

ings that h has a dif

laying hand

skilful workman is very careful indeed as to what he takes into his

n-attic.

tools which may help him

ng his w e has

ge assort e m

fect rd thi

and ca

Depen

comes

of kn

that

highe

have

useful

"But th

I was on the point

what th work might be,b

thing owed m

he q

con

oure my

it.H he would acquire

knowledge which did not bear upon his object. Therefore all the knowledge which he possessed was such as would be useful to him. I enumerated in my own mind all the various points upon which he had shown me that he was exceptionally well-informed. I even took a pencil and jotted them down. I could not help smiling at the document when I had completed it. It ran in this way ——

The torture-chamber showed beneath him. It was a large, irregular room,divided into unequal portions by the four wide, massive pillars that supported its arched roof. A smell of damp and mildew came from its wall and from its flags moistened by water that trickled from without. appearance at any time must been gruesome. But, at that m with the tall figures of Sebasti his sons, with the slanting gl light that fell between the with the vision of the captive down upon the truckle-b sumed a sinisterand barbaro

Daubrecq was in the front room, four or five yards d the window at which Lupin In addition to the ancient chains that had been used to fasten him to his bed and to fasten the bed to an iron hook in the wall, his wrists and ankles were girt with leather thongs; and an ingenious arrangement caused his least movement to set in motion a bell hung to the nearest pillar.

A lamp placed on a stool lit him full in the face.

The Marquis d'Albufex was standing beside him. Lupin could see his pale features, his grizzled moustache, his long, lean form as he looked at his prisoner with an expression of content and of gratified hatred.

A few minutes passed in profound silence. Then the marquis gave an order:

"Light those three candles, Sebastiani, so that I can see him better."

wh e thre

e k

eco stoop

m ly:

t

e, t at

have had some deuced happy mo-

n is

s

tears, real sobs of despair... The

money you have robbed me of! A fortune!... And my terror at the thought that you might give me away! You had

t to

d bri abo my

villai

q d no udge. He ha

of black glasses,

s spe which

om the candles.

H deal of flesh; and

nke Alb ex. "I

It ems

ng bou e

that

and try

mean

your im

Is th

earer, kne

and turned a

which upi

f the

work. And of course he's listening to her like a perfect ninny. I never saw ed m she

e odde gs she

says, more delighted

eviden e Shi you come

right in is m , do you hear me!"

A series of aps on the west window bro e flying in from the yard, e cheeks faintly flushed w k, edhairstreaming beh in a of brightness.

"Oh, a," she ed breathlessl re's going to nday-

ic ne Mr.

irews' ear the lake of Shining Waters. And Mrs.

and Mrs. Rachel

make ice cream-

-ICE CREAM!

I go to it?"

ock, if you please,

I

n't it splendid

a?

, I've never been

eamed of picnics,

come at two

to three.

didn't obey

a, as much as

no idea how

nd then, of

hew about

s such a sympa-

se can I go?"

learn to resist the fas-

llewhatever-you-call-it.

u to come in at a certain

hat time and not half an

And you needn't stop to

with sympathetic listeners

ay, either. As for the picnic,

you can go. You're a Sun-

ol scholar, and it's not likely

to let you go when all the

girls are going."

faltered Anne, "Diana says

ody must take a basket of

at. I can't cook, as you

lla, and–and–I don't mind

a picnic without puffed

much, but I'd feel terribly

if I had to go without a

t's been preying on my mind

e Diana told me."

t needn't prey any longer. I'll

u a basket."

ou dear good Marilla. Oh, you

kind to me. Oh, I'm so much

d to you."

ng through with her "ohs" Anne

erself into Marilla's

and rapturously kissed her

w cheek. It was the first time in

whole life that childish lips had

luntarily touched Marilla's face.

gain that sudden sensation of star-

ling sweetness thrilled her. She was

secretly vastly pleased at Anne's im-

uls ess, h as ro ply

e so h e sai ru el

Th , r ever iss-

ng s e. soon e u ng

ric as ou old. fo oo ng,

n to egin ng ou ss in

that some of these days. But you're so

f th rbr d, An e, l e b n wait-

in se you'd be d a little

and l n to e ste y b fo begin.

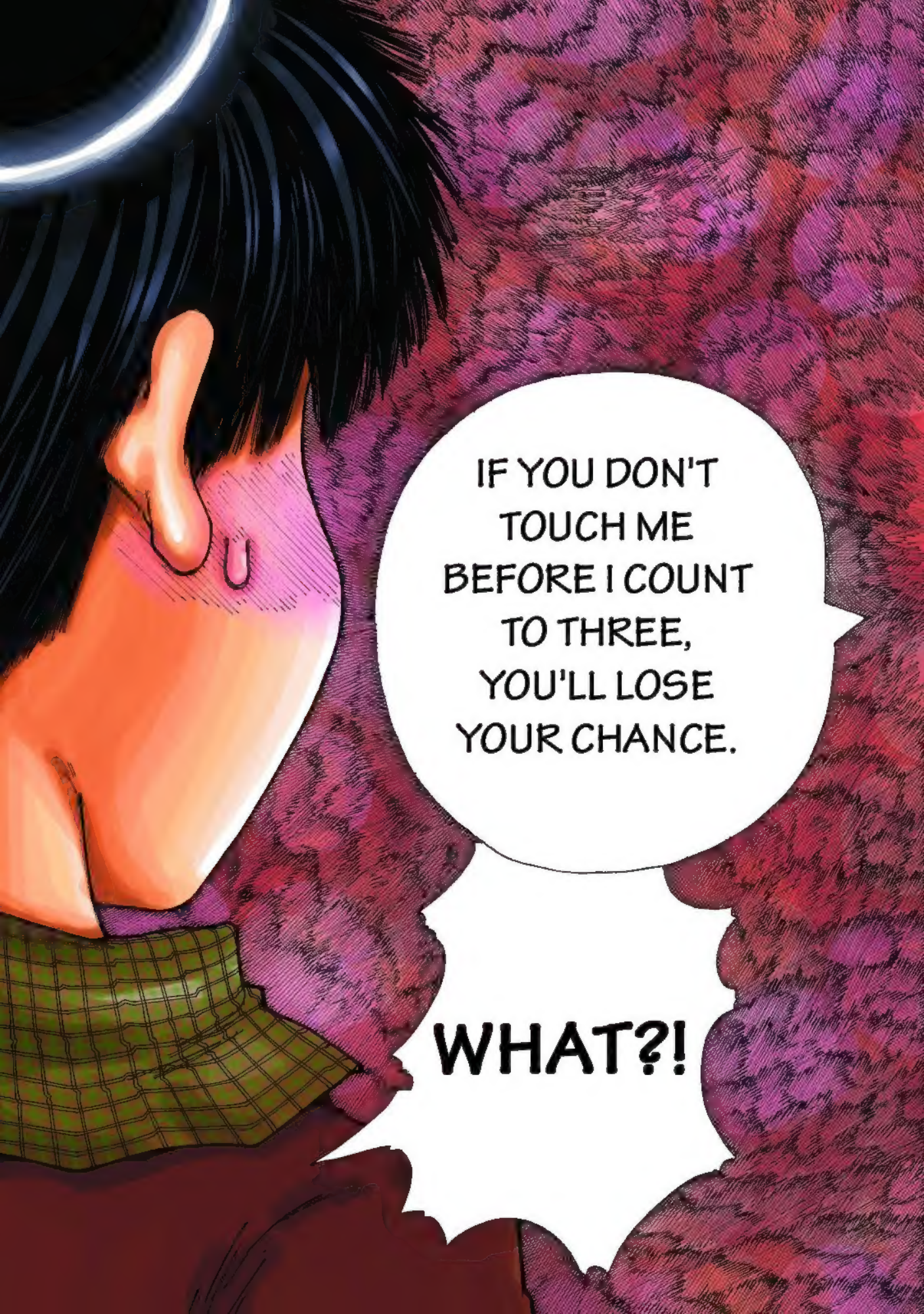
You've got to keep your wits about

perfectly well she ought to be at her

UESHIBA植芝理一RIICHI
AFTERNOON KC ✂ KODANSHA Ltd.

HUH?
YOU CAN USE YOUR OWN HAND TO TOUCH ME...
IF YOU WANT...
BUT...
B—
W-WE SHOULDN'T... L-LET OURSELVES GET CARRIED AWAY...
SHOULD WAIT UNTIL... W-WE'RE SURE THIS IS WHAT WE BOTH WANT...
WE
O-OUR FEELINGS ARE WHAT MATTER ...

CHAPTER 21: MYSTERIOUS SENSATION


IF YOU DON'T TOUCH ME BEFORE I COUNT TO THREE, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR CHANCE.
WHAT?!

1
2
THR—
S-
SORRY,
SQUISH
ふにゅっ…
URA-
BE!!

URABE'S BOOBS...
I'M TOUCHING ...
I-I DID IT...
トクントクン
I CAN FEEL URABE'S HEART BEATING THROUGH MY HAND...
I CAN FEEL A HEART POUNDING... AND IT'S NOT MY HEART...
URABE!!
U—
URABE...
THUD-Y

TSU-BAKI-KUN...
TSU—
OH... URABE'S EAR...
WAIT ... TSUBAKI-KUN.
GLITCH!
LICK...

AH...
カチャ
CLATTER
じわ
NN...

URABE'S
LIPS...

WHAT HAVE I DONE?
I'M SORRY, URABE!
SORRY!
I—

AND PUSHED HER DOWN...
I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF URABE'S WORDS
MADE URABE CRY...
I...
NO...
I'M NOT MAD...
UH...
URABE...
ARE YOU MAD...?

I'M SORRY...
URABE...
GOING HOME...
I'M...
バタン!
SLAM

AH...
GLITTER
TUG

DID YOU LIKE IT?
IT WAS GOOD.
THANKS FOR THE FOOD...
SURE
DES-SERT ...
OKA-SAN...
ヒヴォッ

REALLY?
DES-SERT?
YOU'RE OFFER-ING?
BLUUUUSH...
かあああ...
NNN...
MY...
MY HEART'S POUNDING...
MY BODY FEELS SO HOT...

MY GLASSES FOGGED UP...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND TSUBAKI-KUN RECENTLY?
BUT THIS WAS THE HOTTEST I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED...
MY BODY'S FELT HOT AFTER TASTING YOUR DROOL BEFORE.

IT WAS YESTERDAY...
WELL, SORT OF...
OH... YESTERDAY...
WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY?
WHAT HAPPENED?
I EXPERIENCED A STRANGE NEW SENSATION...
JUST FOR A MOMENT,
A SENSATION THAT I'VE...
NEVER FELT BEFORE...
WHAT EXACTLY HAP-PENED?
HUH? A SENSATION YOU'VE NEVER FELT BEFORE?
.....

END OF CHAPTER 21

CHAPTER 22: MYSTERIOUS SENSATION

CHANGE?
YOUR SENSES ...
YOUR SENSES START TO CHANGE.
WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE,
AFTER YOU STARTED GOING OUT WITH UENO-KUN?
YOUR SENSES CHANGED
DOES THAT MEAN

ANYWAY, WHEN I TASTED YOUR CROQUI, MY HEART STARTED TO RACE LIKE NEVER BEFORE.
WELL, LITTLE BY LITTLE...
I'M ASSUMING YOU KNOW
WHY THAT IS?
FOR LUNCH...
THANKS
GULP
JOLT
GURG
HUH?

DASH
MMM
MY GLASSES FOGGED UP AGAIN.
AND I STILL FEEL HOT, AND MY HEART'S STILL POUNDING.
SOME-THING
BUG MUST HAVE HAPPENED BETWEEN THEM...

I THOUGHT THAT I HAD A CONSIDERABLE LEAD.
BUT...
THIS MIGHT MEAN SHE'S CAUGHT UP...
PAS
PAS
PAS

SQUEEZE
きゅっ…
NN...
AH...
SO,
YOU CAN USE EXPONENTIAL FUNCTIONS TO SIMPLIFY THE EQUATION.

PATHETIC...
AH...
I TOUCHED UKAWA'S BOOBS,
LOST CONTROL AND PUSHED HER DOWN,
MADE HER CRY..
AND I
BECAUSE I FELT AWKWARD..
AND THEN I RAN AWAY AND LEFT HER THERE

I'M A SORRY EXCUSE FOR A MAN...
URABE.
I'M SORRY.

UKABE
U—
YOU'RE EARLY TODAY, TSUBAKI-KUN...
I'M...
SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY!!
BOW!!

WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?
I MADE YOU CRY...
B-BECAUSE ...
COME ON.
LET'S GO.
I WASN'T MAD...
THAT
I ALREADY TOLD YOU
BUT!
BU—
HUH?

TSUBASA KUN...

URABE! WAIT, W-
OUR USUAL RITUAL...
HERE
BEFORE WE GO THROUGH OUR RITUAL...
SO,
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO TASTE YOUR DROOL RIGHT NOW...

I WANT YOU TO HIT ME!
THAT I MADE MY OWN GIRLFRIEND CRY.
THE FACT REMAINS
IF YOU'RE MAD OR NOT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER
PRETTY PAINFUL...
MY SLAP
WE CAN GO THROUGH THE RITUAL AFTER THAT.
I WON'T FEEL BETTER UNTIL YOU DO.
SO PLEASE HIT ME.

I DON'T MIND! GIVE ME YOUR BEST SHOT!
PWTP
FWOOSH

SLAP
TSUBAKI-KUN...
HUH?

TOUCH
MY EAR...
Nibble
O-
OKAY...
QUICK...
YOUR EAR?
HUH?

HUH?
GRIP HARDER...
OKAY...
AH...

HUH?
IT'S YOUR FAULT..
TEARS...

AFTER WHAT YOU DID YESTERDAY,
TEARS WELL UP IN MY EYES
WHENEVER I TOUCH MY EARS...
YOU...
CHANGED MY SENSES...
SORRY, UKAWA...
S-...

I FIND IT...
IN FACT, I DON'T MIND THIS SENSATION
YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE ...
THEN I HAVE TO RECEIVE THE SAME PUNISHMENT.
IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU DESERVE PUNISHMENT FOR WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY,
SO,
HUH?
ECHI!
POP
POP

!
OUCH...
MMPH
ヒア
MY SLAP REALLY STINGS...
I HAVE TO SAY,

I'M ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED...
I'M THE ONE WHO SAID IT WAS OKAY TO TOUCH MY BOOBS.
URABE...
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TASTED MY CROTCH.
BUT...
I APPRECIATE IT.
.....
I DON'T MIND
IF I HAVE A BRUISE ON MY FACE...

ON THE FACE OF THE GIRL I LOVE...
BUT I DON'T WANT TO SEE A BRUISE

FWLIP
OKAY...
TSUBAKI-KUN, HERE,
TODAY'S DOSE...
かぁぁぁ...
BLUUUSH...

WELL, I FELT PRETTY EMBARRASSED SAYING THOSE WORDS TO HER.
MY FACE IS SO HOT, IT FEELS LIKE IT'S SWELLING...
AFTER UKANEI'S AMP AND THAT GOOD...
SEE YA!
UH...
SEE YOU TOMORROW
OKAY...
TSUBAKI-KUN,
A LOT OF THINGS WILL BE CHANGING FOR US...
I GUESS
FROM NOW ON,
YOU CHANGED MY SENSES...

END OF CHAPTER 22

CHAPTER 88:
MYSTERIOUS "IT'S KINDA... I DUNNO..."

ミリリリリ…
ミリリリリ…
ミリリリリ…
ゴソゴソ
PANT
PANTING
MPH...

むくっ
HURGH
YAAAWN...
MPH...

HEY,
TSUYUKO!
MORNING!

HAS SOME SERIOUS BEDHEAD...
URABE...
SINCE SHE HAS SUCH A CUTE FACE...
I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT URABE SHOULD SPEND A LITTLE MORE TIME ON HER HAIR.
YOU'VE GOT MAJOR BEDHEAD.
WHOA, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAIR?
GOOD MORNING, URABE-SAN!
OKA-BAN...
GASOON!

I SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL ABOUT HER HAIR
BUT A GIRL
THOUGH IT CERTAINLY FITS YOUR STYLE!
IS IT THAT BAD?
BEDHEAD!
HUH?
SURE.
CAN I BORROW IT?
YOU HAVE YOUR HAIR DRYER RIGHT?
HATANO-SAN!
SEVEN GIRLS DRESSING BOOM!
7 NUMBERS!
10 SNAP
JUST COME ON!
HUH?
COME WITH ME, URABE-SAN!

DONE!
THERE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
TOO BRIGHT... IT'S...
THAT'S BECAUSE YOUR BANGS USUALLY COVER YOUR EYES.
YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT...
WHY DON'T YOU TRY WEARING YOUR HAIR LIKE THIS ALL DAY?
URABE-SAN,
COULD HAVE A MUCH DIFFERENT IMAGE IF YOU SWITCHED HAIRSTYLES AND LET YOUR EYES SHOW!

WHO'S THAT?
HUH?
URABE...?!
HER EYES ARE UNCOVERED!
URABE!
YOU'RE SO CUTE!
URABE-SAN, IS THAT YOU?

YOU LOOK REALLY CUTE WITH YOUR BANGS UP!
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU!
YAJIMA SAN...
WOW!
I DID HER HAIR FOR HER!
BUMP
SMACK!
LEAP

SHARP
SHARP
THUMP
THUMP
WOW
I'VE NEVER GOTTEN A GOOD LOOK AT URABE'S FACE BEFORE.
BUT SHE'S ACTUALLY PRETTY CUTE!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST A WEIRDO.
BUT SHE JUST SCORED MAJOR POINTS IN MY BOOK!
I THINK I'LL ASK HER OUT!
AHA HA HA!
.....

URABE
WHAT?
ARE YOU GOING TO
WEAR YOUR HAIR LIKE THIS AGAIN TOMORROW?
OKA-SAN'S THE ONE WHO DID THIS.
SO IF OKA-SAN DOES MY HAIR AGAIN TOMORROW, IT MIGHT LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
.....
PERSONALLY ...

INSTEAD OF WEARING YOUR HAIR LIKE THIS AGAIN.
I'D PREFER THAT YOU GO BACK TO YOUR USUAL HAIRSTYLE TOMORROW.
WHY, YOU ASK...
BECAUSE...
HUH?
....
WHY?
I DON'T WANT EVERYONE ELSE TO SEE IT!!!
BEFORE, I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO GOT TO SEE URABE'S FACE.
パチッ
SNAP
パチッ
SNAP
I LIKE IT

GIVE ME YOUR HANDS...
TSUBAKI-KUN,
WHAT
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
HUH?
MY HANDS?
GRAB
GRAB
GRAB

TSUBAKI-KUN,
USE YOUR HANDS
TO TOUSLE MY HAIR.
AND MAKE A COMPLETE MESS OF IT...
HUH...?
O-
OKAY!
JUST DO IT!
USE MORE FORCE.
MESS IT UP COMPLETELY!
OKAY!
ER...
PUPPLE
PUPPLE
PUPPLE
PUPPLE
PUPPLE
PUPPLE

かしかしかし
ガシガシ…
ガシ
ガシ
ガシ
FWSSSSHHH…
FWSSSSHH

BACK TO NORMAL ...
THERE...
I WON'T WEAR IT ANYMORE...
IF YOU DON'T LIKE THAT HAIRSTYLE,
TH---
THANK YOU...
WHEN I SAW HER REDHEAD THIS MORNING, I THOUGHT SHE SHOULD SPEND MORE TIME ON HER HAIR...
WELL,
BUT WHEN I SEE HER LIKE THIS, I THINK...
TO ME, HER HAIR LOOKS CUTEST THIS WAY...
LET'S GO HOME...

WHAT?
HM?
TSUBAKI-KUN...
.....
TO HAVE YOU
MESS UP MY HAIR...
YOU KNOW,
IT KIND OF FEELS GOOD
THOSE WORDS...
OH...
REALLY?
HUH?
U-
RA-
BE-
SAN!
EROTIC ...
WE'RE KIND OF...

I'LL PASS...
LET'S GO TO THE DRESSING ROOM ONCE WE'RE FINISHED EATING.
I THOUGHT OF THE PERFECT NEW HAIR-STYLE FOR YOU!
COME ON, LET'S TRY ANOTHER NEW HAIRSTYLE TODAY!
OUR CLASS-MATES LOVED YOUR NEW LOOK YES-TERDAY!
WHAT? WHY?
I'LL BET.
URABE-SAN.
HE HE
I'LL PASS.
I SAID,
GLARE

TSUBAKI-KUN TOLD YOU TO GO BACK TO YOUR NORMAL HAIRSTYLE, DIDN'T HE?
HUH?
TSUBAKI-KUN'S PRETTY POSSESSIVE.
SEEMS LIKE
LOOKS LIKE I'M RIGHT!!
NO...
THAT'S NOT...
IS
POSSESSIVE?
SCHLP
DOESN'T WANT YOU TO CHANGE YOUR HAIRSTYLE AND LET OTHER BOYS SEE YOUR FACE
TSUBAKI-KUN
POF
POF

どきどき
MY HEART IS POUNDING
UKABE-SAN, WHEN TSUBAKI-KUN TOLD YOU YESTERDAY TO GO BACK TO YOUR OLD HAIRSTYLE,
TSUBAKI-KUN
MADE ME FEEL GOOD.
HUH?
MADE YOU FEEL GOOD?
がしっ
RUMBLE
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
HOW?

PWA
MUSS
MUSS
MUSS
MUSS
MUSS
IT FELT REALLY GOOD...
HE DID THAT...
.....
UENO-KUN...

GRAB MY HEAD WITH YOUR HANDS?
COULD YOU
I HAVE A REQUEST...
HM?
WHAT?
COULD YOU MESS UP MY HAIR?
NOW,
LI—
LIKE THIS?
WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO DO THAT?
HUH?
JUST DO IT!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHY.
WHY?
WH—

OKAY...
JUST GIVE IT A TRY.
KISS
KISS
KISS
KISS
KISS
KISS
OKA...
PFF

ARE FOGGED UP...
YOUR GLASSES
THOSE TWO SURELY DO SOME KINKY STUFF...
MESS UP YOUR HAIR...
TO HAVE THE PERSON YOU LIKE
KIND OF GOOD
IT FEELS
SO THEY ARE...
MYOKOJI-SAN, YOU'RE FOGGING UP YOUR OWN GLASSES, LIKE THAT, OKAY...

END OF CHAPTER 23

CHAPTER 24: MYSTERIOUS IDOL

THAT DAY, DURING LUNCH...
NAKAJIMA FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB SAID...
HOW DOES
300 YEN EACH SOUND?
...OUT OF THE BLUE.
FOR WHAT?
PICTURES OF URABE!!

I TOOK PICTURES WHILE SHE WASN'T LOOKING.
THAT DAY WHEN URABE CHANGED HER HAIR?
REMEMBER
YES!
FROM THAT DAY?
OH!!
SER-OUSLY?
YOU ACTUAL-LY WENT THAT FAR?
IT WAS A GOLDEN OPPOR-TUNITY!
OH, I WANT THESE THREE!
COULDN'T TELL WITH HER BANGS ALWAYS COVERING HER EYES.
BUT URABE'S PRETTY CUTE!
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT UNTIL THE OTHER DAY.
SLURP
OH!
I WANT ONE!!
HOW ABOUT IT?
500 YEN EACH!
IF ANYONE WANTS ONE, I'LL MAKE COPIES!
ME, TOO!
THOSE WITCHES...
HMPH...

WHICH EVEN I HARDLY GOT TO SEE, RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES...
BELLINOTO'S KISS OF MY GIRLFRIEND'S FACE.
WHAT'S WRONG, TSUBASA?
HUH?
I'M GETTING REALLY PISSED!! I WANT TO TELL THEM THAT URABE IS MINE!
DO YOU NEED TO GO TO THE RESTROOM?
YOU HAD THIS REALLY INTENSE LOOK ON YOUR FACE.
DAMN, MY ANGER SHOWED ON MY FACE... BUT I'M REALLY MAD NOW!
WH- WHAT'S
REALLY?
LOOKED LIKE THAT?
CHU
CHU
CHU

THE REALLY POSSESSIVE TYPE...
MAYBE I'M...
HUH?
DON'T YOU WANT ANY?
HEY, TSUBAKI, UENO!
I'VE GOT OKA...
GAME HERE...
IT WOULD HURT MY PRIDE AS URAME'S BOYFRIEND TO HAVE THE SAME PICTURE EVERYONE ELSE HAS, BUT I DO KIND OF WANT ONE...
I'LL PASS...
DEEP? THESE STEREO EYES LOOK JUST LIKE HERS!
AHA HA...
OH!
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!
DON'T YOU THINK THAT URAIBE
LOOKS LIKE MOMOKA IMAI IN THIS PICTURE?

WHO'S MOMOKA IMAI?
HEY...
SOMEONE AT THIS SCHOOL?
H-
HUH? IT THERE'S SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE URABE?
YOU'RE EIGHT... SHE DOESN LOOK LIKE MOMOKA IMAI!
LOOK!
DOESN'T SHE LOOK LIKE HER?
SHE'S AN IDOL WHO STARS IN COMMERCIALS!
STUPID!
I HAD NO IDEA ...
THERE'S AN IDOL WHO LOOKS LIKE URABE?
HUH...
I BOUGHT HER PHOTO BOOK ♪
SHE'S SO CUTE IN THAT COMMERCIAL!
THE ONE WHO GOT POPULAR RECENTLY FOR THAT BOTTLED WATER COMMERCIAL!
THAT ONE GIRL, EIGHT?
YEAH, SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE MOMOKA IMAIN THESE FRIENDLY PICTURES THOUGH
MOMOKA'S MORE
AHA HA
PAGE 82

TSUBAKI-BYE, SEE YOU TOMOKI-KUN.
YEAH, SEE YOU TOMOE-KUN!
OKAY, NORMALLY I WOULD HEAD STRAIGHT HOME, I'M MAKING A STOP FIRST..
AT THE BOOK-STORE!
TAK-TAK-TAK

BOOK CENTER
Tomys
CD
DVD
LET'S SEE...
PHOTO BOOKS, PHOTO BOOKS...
HERE THEY ARE...
OH!
AH...
THEY'RE STACKED FLAT...
HEY, IT'S!
OH!
MOMOKA IMAI... MOMOKA IMAI...
I GUESS IT'S PRETTY POPULAR
BOOK: MOMOKA IMAI PHOTO BOOK

THEY'RE RIGHT... SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE URABE!!
MOMOKA DEAD
MOMOKA
HM HM HM HM
THAT'LL BE 2,500 YEN
AH, I WANT TO GET HOME AND SEE THE INSIDE...
I'M BUYING IT!! I HAVE TO BUY IT!
TO THE REGISTER!!
GASP!
SHE'S MOMOKA'S SISTER!!
.....

HEY.
IT'S TSU-BAKI!
UN-USUAL TO RUN
INTO YOU AT THE BOOK-STORE.
OH...
UENO!
WHAT'RE YOU BUYING?
AND YOU DIDN'T BUY ANY OF NAKA-JIMA'S PIC-TURES.
SO IS URAREI'S FACE ACTUALLY YOUR TYPE?
N—
NO, I JUST HEARD SHE WAS A POPULAR
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
MOMOKA IMAI PHOTO BOOK?
I THOUGHT I SHOULD PROBABLY KEEP UP WITH TRENDS LIKE THIS...
SEE YA!
OH... SEE YA.
HUH?

I'M HOME!
WELCOME BACK
AKIRA
WANT ME TO MAKE COFFEE?
LATER!
BAM
BAM
BAM

SHE REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE URABE.
YEAH..
OH.
THERE ARE SWIMSUIT SHOTS, TOO..
AWESOME!
BUT SHE'S STILL PRETTY CUTE..
URABE'S BOOBS ARE BIGGER..

AH...
URABE NEVER SMILES LIKE THIS...
THAT'S RIGHT...

THIS WAS A GREAT BUY!
HUH?
.....
WHAT?
YOU KNOW, NAKAJIMA
FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB? HE'S SELLING PICTURES HE TOOK OF HER IN SECRET FOR 300 YEN EACH.
THE BOYS ARE SELLING PICTURES OF URAHE?
AND DID YOU BUY A PICTURE OF URAHE-SAN?
KOUHEI -KUN?
OH...
NO, I DIDN'T.
SINCE...
I HAVE YOU...

TSUBAKI?
HUH?
NO, HE DIDN'T BUY ANY, EITHER.
WHAT ABOUT TSUBAKI KUN?
DID HE BUY ANY?
WELL,
OH?
THEN,
URABE'S FACE IS THE TYPE HE LIKES.
BUT I'M PRETTY SURE
HE DIDN'T BUY ANY.
OH?
REALLY?
MOMOKA IMAI?
SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE URABE.
OH...
YOU DON'T KNOW HER? SHE'S AN IDOL WHO'S POPULAR LATELY.
ON THE WAY HOME THAT DAY,
BUYING MOMOKA IMAI'S PHOTO BOOK!
SAW HIM
WELL,
HUH?
HOW CAN YOU TELL?

U-
RA-
BE-
SAN!
WHAT?
KA
FWAH!
IT'S TRUE!
YOU LOOK...
HUH?
MOMOKA IMAI?
JUST LIKE MOMOKA IMAI
WHO'S THAT?

HE MUST HAVE BOUGHT IT BECAUSE SHE LOOKS LIKE YOU.
UENO-KUN TOLD ME THAT TSUBAKI-KUN BOUGHT HER PHOTO BOOK.
AN IDOL WHO LOOKS LIKE ME?
LOOKING AT YOU LIKE THIS, YOU REALLY LOOK LIKE HER!
AN IDOL WHO'S REALLY POPULAR RIGHT NOW.
WAIT,
TSUBAKI-KUN!
BYE, IRABE!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!

YOU BOUGHT MOMOKA IMAI'S
PHOTO BOOK, RIGHT?
ISUBAKI-KUN,
HUH?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
HOW...
I HEARD FROM OKA-SAN
BY THIS KOUTEI!
UENO
OKA
URABE
I SHOULD HAVE TOLD UENO TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT...
DOES THAT IDOL LOOK LIKE ME?
I BOUGHT HER PHOTO BOOK BECAUSE SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU.
IN OTHER WORDS,
I ONLY LIKE THAT IDOL BECAUSE I LIKE YOU, AND SO...
WELL...
UH...
Y-
YEAH, SHE DOES.

I'D LIKE TO SEE THIS PHOTO BOOK.
I'LL WAIT IN THE PARK OVER THERE.
SO WILL YOU GET THAT PHOTO BOOK AND BRING IT BACK HERE?
HUH?
OH..
OKAY!

SEE?
SEE?
SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU!
DON'T YOU THINK SO?
SAY,
TSUBAKI-KUN.
WHICH ONE OF THESE?
PHOTOS IS YOUR FAVORITE?
HUH?

TH—
UH...
MY FA-VORITE PHOTO IS...
THIS ONE, I GUESS?
DON'T ...
DON'T MOVE AN INCH...
TSUBAKI-KUN.
DON'T TELL ME...
SKETCH
HUH?
SKETCH

SND
シュッ
SND
シャキッ
PANTY SCIS-SORS?!
SND
シャキシャキ
SND
シャキシャキ
SND
シャキッ
SND

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MY BOYFRIEND.
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER

SO I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO WORSHIP AN IDOL WHO LOOKS LIKE ME.

END OF CHAPTER 24

CHAPTER 25: MYSTERIOUS MOMENT

BUT WE'RE ALREADY EXPERIENCING MIDSUMMER TEMPERATURES OVER 30°C.
IT'S LATE JUNE, WHICH IS STILL EARLY SUMMER...
TWEET
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH

THE GIRLS HAVE ALREADY STARTED SWIMMING CLASS...
WHERE IS HARE...?
OWI
BASH!!
HEY, TSUBAKI!
KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE GAME OR YOU'LL GET HURT!
YOU'RE SO HAPPY THE GIRLS ARE SWIMMING, YOU CAN'T HELP YOURSELF, HUH?
CLEAR
HAHAHA
HAHAHA

MAKES ME EXTREMELY HAPPY
THE FACT THAT IT'S THE SEASON TO SEE MY GIRLFRIEND IN A SWIMSUIT
JERK!
UM...
SHUT UP!
WELL, IT'S TRUE...

SO THE GIRLS STARTED HAVING PE CLASSES IN THE POOL TODAY, HUH?
YEAH.
IT FELT GOOD...
MY FIRST SWIM OF THE YEAR.
YOU LIKE SWIMMING, DON'T YOU?
YEAH.
SO HOT...
IT'S ONLY JUNE AND THE SUN IS SO INTENSE!

WE'RE USING THE POOL AGAIN DURING FIRST PERIOD TOMORROW
I HOPE THE BOYS GET TO SWIM SOON.
IT'S SO HOT.
REALLY?
LUCKY...
!
FWOOOOSH...
THE WIND...

AND HER NATURAL SCENT TO ME TOGETHER...
...IS BRINGING THE SCENT OF THE POOL ON URABE'S BODY
SHE SMELLS NICE...
LIKE SUMMER.
IT SMELLS...
AH!
STOP
WHOA!
S-SORRY!!
I WASN'T WATCHING...

SKID
WHOA!!
SHOULDVE KNOWN!
PANTY
I...I'M SORRY, URABE!
IT WASN'T MY FAULT!
SCIS-SORS!!!
SKID
SKID
IT WAS SUM-MER'S FAULT!!
SCISSORS!
OH...
SKID

TUCKED IN YOUR PANTIES?
YOUR SCISSORS WERE!
HUH?
URABE..
UH...
I FORGOT TO PUT THEM BACK IN THE USUAL PLACE...
WHEN I CHANGED AFTER SWIMMING IN PE..
I GUESS YOU HAVE TO TAKE THEM YEAH, OUT WHEN YOU WEAR YOUR SCHOOL SWIMSUIT.
I...
OH...
I SEE...
IT SURE SAVED ME THOUGH
SO IT'D BE EASY TO FORGET THEM...
HUH?
AHA HA HA...

IS A LITTLE RED...
URABE'S FACE...
BECAUSE I SAW HER PANTIES?
MAYBE
SHE WAS EMBARRASSED THAT I SAW HER PANTIES WITHOUT THE SCISSORS THERE?
I NEVER SEEMED TO BOTHER HER WHEN SHE USED THE PANTY SCISSORS IN FRONT OF ME BEFORE...
COULD THAT BE IT?
WITHOUT SCISSORS TUCKED INTO THEM
I NEVER SAW YOUR PANTIES
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME
I'LL PUCK ON HER A LITTLE...
MAYBE...
WHAT?!
URABE!

UH...
I...
I'M SORRY!
UH...
AH...
U-URABE!
DASH

I'VE GOTTA SAY THAT WAS PRETTY LOW.
I MADE FUN OF HER...
BUT AS SOON AS I KNEW SHE COULDN'T USE PAINTY SCISSORS ON ME,
I'M ALWAYS SO TIMID AROUND URARE.
I GOT CARRIED AWAY.
NOW I'VE DONE IT...
AND MADE URARE MAD.
MOOD RING
I'LL APOLOGIZE TO HER
BEFORE SCHOOL TOMORROW
I KNOW!
!

AH...
URABE!
I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY!
I MEAN, SORRY FOR WHAT I SAID ABOUT SEEING YOUR PANTIES...
I KIND OF GOT CARRIED AWAY THERE...
.....
I'M REALLY SORRY.
SO CAN YOU STOP BEING MAD AT ME?
BOW!
DASH!

HUH?
WAIT,
TSUBAKI-KUN!
SO SEE YOU CLASS!
WELL, I'LL TAKE A DIFFERENT ROUTE TO SCHOOL.
YOU REALLY WANT ME
TO STOP BEING MAD AT YOU?
HUH?
OF..
THEN,
OF COURSE.
TAKE ME SOMEWHERE RIGHT NOW...
WHA—
WHAT?!
RIGHT NOW..
YOU MEAN, SKIP SCHOOL?
YES.
YOU DON'T WANT TO?

WHAT'S ONE MEASLY DAY OF SCHOOL?!
IF IT MEANS YOU WON'T BE MAD AT ME...
OF COURSE I WANT TO!
OF...
OF...
HMF
HMM...
YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOU?
IS THERE SOME-PLACE
.....
SHINE

THE BEACH?
GUESS
...
THOOOOM

GO! GO! US SOME ICE CREAM.

I FOUND A STAND OVER THERE.

HERE!

UKABI!

WILL I SEE IT?

SIGH

CALL IT MY APOLOGY

FOR YESTERDAY

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

THANKS.

HOW MUCH WAS IT?

THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE HERE.

JUST SOME GUYS SURFING OVER THERE...

WELL,

IT IS A WEEKDAY MORNING...

AND IT'S STILL ONLY JUNE.

I BET IT'LL BE OVER 30°C AGAIN TODAY.

BUT STILL, IT'S HOT!

IT'S FINE.
HUH?
HAHA...
FOR MAKING YOU SKIP SCHOOL TODAY.
SORRY, TSUBAKI-KUN.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
IT'S SUMMER'S FAULT FOR PUTTING ME IN THE MOOD TO SKIP SCHOOL!
I SEE...
SUMMER'S FAULT...
TSUBAKI-KUN, WILL YOU HOLD MY BAG?
SHOVE
AND MY UNIFORM?
HUH?
BLUSH
BLUSH

I TOLD YOU, RIGHT?
THE GIRLS ARE USING THE POOL DURING 1ST PERIOD.
SO I WORE MY SWIMSUIT UNDER MY UNIFORM.
I'M
GOING SWIMMING!
SPLASH!

I'M GOING FOR A LITTLE SWIM!
SORRY TO MAKE YOU HOLD MY STUFF.
パシャ
splash
AH...
NO PROBLEM!
AHA HA HA HA ...
I SKIPPED SCHOOL TODAY...
I'M SO GLAD!
NO PROBLEM!
LUCKY!

THE WEATHER HERE CHANGES QUICKLY IN SUMMER...
BUT
IT'S GETTING CLOUDY ALL OF A SUDDEN...
I CAN HEAR THUNDER!!
GET OUT OF THE WATER!!
URABE!!!
I SHOULD CALL HER BACK...
FLASH
AH.
I CAN HEAR THUNDER IN THE DISTANCE...

IT'S STARTING TO RAIN.
OH..
LET'S TAKE SHELTER IN THOSE TREES OVER THERE.
IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN NOW.
AH..
I HOPE IT STOPS SOON..
HAND ME THE BAG THAT'S NOT MY SCHOOL
THANKS
THIS ONE?
OH..

OH...
I'LL TURN AROUND, THEN...
THERE'S A RESTROOM NOT FAR AWAY...
TH-
BUT IT'S DARK IN THESE TREES, SO IT'LL BE FINE, RIGHT?
I HAVE A TOWEL AND A CHANGE OF CLOTHES IN HERE...
WHAT?
YOU'RE GONNA CHANGE HERE?
RUMBLE...
RUMBLE
WHAT?
URABE...
HUUU

SINCE WE CAME TO THE BEACH?
ARE YOU IN A BETTER MOOD
.....
BUT...
WHAT?
YESTERDAY I...
I WASN'T IN A BAD MOOD IN THE FIRST PLACE...
MAD AT YOU.
I WASN'T
WHEN YOU SAID YOU SAW MY PANTIES,
I WASN'T THAT I WAS MAD...
I WAS JUST...
I WAS SURE YOU'D...
WHAT?
YOU WEREN'T?
A LITTLE ...

A LITTLE
A LITTLE ..?
WHAT?
A LITTLE...
CRACKLE CRACKLE CRACKLE
ガラガラガラ
CRASH
WHOA!!
YAH!
DROP
ドオオオン

ゴロゴロ…
RUMBLE RUMBLE

THA—
THAT SCARED ME…
THAT LIGHTNING HIT OUT OF NOWHERE…
AND IT WAS REALLY CLOSE…
TSUBAKI-KUN…
DID YOU…
SEE?
HUH?
SEE
WHAT?
OH, WHEN THE LIGHT-NING STRUCK?
WELL, IT WAS BRIGHT FOR AN INSTANT, BUT ALL I COULD SEE WAS WHITE…
AH-HAH …

GOROGORO
GOROGORO
GOROGORO
FLASH!
YEAH...
AHA HA HA...
IT WAS REALLY JUIST FOR AN INSTANT...
BUT...
IN THE LIGHTNING FLASH, I COULD SEE...
URA-BE'S PALE BODY.

WHEW.
I'M GLAD IT STOPPED.
I DIDN'T BRING AN UMBRELLA.

URABE...
ON THE WAY HOME THAT DAY...
WHAT.
TSUBAKI-KUN?
I WAS TEMPTED
LIKE YESTERDAY.
TO LOOK HER IN THE EYE AND SAY "I SAW YOU" AGAIN...

I CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE EXPLANATION FOR MY MISCHIEVOUS MOOD.
NEVER MIND. IT'S NOTHING!
N—
IT MUST BE SUMMER'S FAULT.
AFTER ALL...
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE FINE SUMMER LIGHTNING THAT SAMURAIFIED!

END OF CHAPTER 25

CHAPTER 26: MYSTERIOUS SOUVENIR

YOU'RE SO BOLD
DOKI
URABE-SAN..
YOU BOTH SKIPPED AND WENT SOMEWHERE TOGETHER, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU ARE SO FAKE, KIM
MYSTERY IN SCHOOL "SO EXCITING, RIGHT?
HEY!
DON'T THINK YOU CAN PLAY DUMB!
HUH?
BOLD?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THAT WAS, UM...
OH
UH
BUT YOUR EMPTY DESKS REALLY STOOD OUT.
SINCE THEY'RE SIDE BY SIDE!
THE SCHOOL WAS NOTIFIED THAT YOU BOTH DIDN'T FEEL WELL

WELL?
WHERE DID YOU TWO GO?
.....
MUNCH MUNCH
SILENCE?
YOU ALWAYS EAT THE LUNCHES I MAKE FOR YOU, AFTER ALL!
.....
C'MON, YOU CAN TELL ME!
THE BEACH...
WE WENT TO THE BEACH.
THE BEACH?
DID YOU SWIM?
I SWAM ..
YES.
WOW.
LUCKY ...
I WANT TO SWIM IN THE OCEAN, TOO...

UENO-KUN TAKE YOU?
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE
.....
WON'T TAKE ME.
UENO-KUN...
UENO-KUN?
THERE ARE PEOPLE SPREADING RUMORS
WELL, YOU WERE BOTH ABSENT YESTERDAY, RIGHT?
THAT THEY SUSPECT YOU'RE A COUPLE...
GOING OUT?
AND URABE
ARE YOU
HEY, TSUBAKI...
WHAT?!
HACHI-NIN
COFFEE
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
TH-THAT...
IT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE!
THAT'S ALL!

LUCKY...
ARE YOU GONNA GO TO THE BEACH WITH OKA-THE YEARS!
DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND! BUT YOU DO, SO WHAT ABOUT YOU?!
GOTTA CHANGE THE SUBJECT...
...
REALLY?
I'D BE GREAT! YOU COULD SEE HER IN HER SWIMSUIT...
WHY NOT?
HUH?
YOU SHOULDN'T?
I'D GO TO THE BEACH WITH OKA...
THERE'S NO WAY
AS I THINK YOU KNOW...
(SUBAKI)
BUT SHE'S GOT A NICE BODY AND BIG BOOBS...
OKA IS AS SHORT AS A GRADE SCHOOLER,
UH...
YEAH,
I'VE NOTICED...

NOW THAT WAS A SIGHT THAT COULD DESTROY, OR EVEN KILL...
BUT I'VE SEEN HER IN A BIKINI ONCE.
YOU PROBABLY ONLY KNOW HOW SHE LOOKS IN HER SCHOOL SWIMSUIT...
TO BE EXPOSED TO THE EYES OF OTHER MEN!
I CAN'T ALLOW SUCH A DANGEROUS SIGHT!
I'M PRETTY SURE IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN
YEAH,
TO THE BEACH?
UENO-KUN WON'T TAKE YOU
WHAT?
THAT'S WHY THERE'S NO WAY I'M TAKING OKA TO THE BEACH.
OH,
I SEE... AHA HAHA...

TO THE BEACH
COME WITH ME, THEN?
WHY DON'T YOU GO?
.....
HOW DOES THE FIRST SUNDAY IN JULY SOUND?
HUH?
WITH YOU?
SIGN: KALAMIDAI STATION
I'M SO HAPPY, URABE-SAN!
YAY
WHOA?
HOLDING HANDS!
FALLING!

WERE YOU WAITING LONG?
URABE-SAN!
TAK

I JUST GOT HERE.
HM?
WHAT IS IT, URABE-SAN?
YOUR OUTFIT EXPOSES A LOT...
OH, THIS?
YEAH!
SHALL WE GO, THEN?
HOOOONK

ROOOOAR
WOW,
JULY ONLY JUST STARTED...
SINCE UENO-KUN IS ALWAYS TELLING ME LATELY TO WEAR PLAINER CLOTHES.
I WAS FEELING A LITTLE RE-BELLIOUS TODAY.
.....
UENO-KUN SAID THAT?
YEAH...

BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE.
I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE BEACH IN AGES!
THE SEA BREEZE FEELS GREAT!
SEA SIDE HO

LET'S JUST
WALK AROUND A LITTLE FIRST!!
HMM
THE CHANGING ROOMS ARE OVER THERE.
WANT TO CHANGE AND GO SWIMMING NOW?
WHAT A GREAT VIEW!
LET'S TAKE A BREAK!
THERE WE GO..
ROAR.....

HMM...
THE GUN IS PRETTY HIGH NOW...
OKA-SAN...
DON'T YOU WANT TO SWIM?
TASTE THIS...
URABE-SAN.
GUU
GUU

DID YOU FEEL ANY-THING?
.....
!
TOUCHED MY CHEST NOT LONG AGO...
UENO-KUN
THAT'S RIGHT!
FEEL FEEL
MY...
MY CHEST FEELS HOT...

LIKE TELLING ME TO DRESS DOWN MORE WHENEVER I WEAR REVEALING CLOTHES...
AND HE'S BEEN ACTING WEIRD EVER SINCE.
ASKING ME WHERE I'VE BEEN IF I DON'T CONTACT HIM ON A DAY OFF...
PHIN
GETTING GRUMPY WHEN I CHAT WITH OTHER GUYS IN OUR CLASS...
AND THE MORE YOU WANT THEM TO YOURSELF.
THE MORE ANXIOUS YOU GET.
THE MORE YOU LIKE SOMEONE,
.....
I WONDER WHY HE'S SO SUSPICIOUS EVEN THOUGH OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS MADE PROGRESS...
TOO, URABE-SAN?
DOES THAT GO FOR YOU,

TO THAT MOMOKA IMAI PHOTO BOOK TSUBAKI-KUN BOUGHT?
OH!
BY THE WAY, WHAT HAPPENED
DO YOU THINK SO?
.....
WELL,
THE IDEA OF TSUBAKI-KUN HAVING ANOTHER GIRL'S PHOTO BOOK...
JUST BOTHERS ME...
THOUGHT YOU WOULD
AHA HAHA
UM
HUH?
CONFISCATED IT.
ACTUALLY, WHERE DID IT GO?
WANT TO GRAB LUNCH SOMEWHERE?
WELL, I'M GETTING HUNGRY!
WHAT?
YOU THINK SO?
I'LL BET HE HAS LOTS OF OTHER GIRLS' PHOTO BOOKS, TOO.
TSUBAKI-KUN WELL, IS A TEENAGE BOY!
UKE, UNDER HIS BED!

I'LL SWIM SOME OTHER TIME.
I'M HAPPY ENOUGH JUST TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE OCEAN!
YOU DON'T WANT TO SWIM?
.....
BUT...
THE REST OF YOUR FAMILY IS OUT OF THE HOUSE?
IS THIS A DAY WHEN
WHAT?
TSUBAKI-KUN.
HEY,
I THINK MY DAD AND SISTER WILL BOTH BE OUT THIS SATURDAY.
HUH?
ER...
UM...
IF YOU DON'T MIND...

TH-
TH-
YOU WANT TO COME OVER WHILE MY FAMILY'S OUT?!
WHAT?!
WHAAAAT?!
THAT WOULD BE GREAT!
SHAZOOM!
CAN I COME OVER THEN?

OKAY, I'LL BE OVER THIS SATURDAY.
DING DONG
ピンポーン
OH!
WEL-COME.
URABE!

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
I'LL GET US SOME DRINKS.
STEP
STEP
I'M THE ONLY ONE HERE, SO DON'T BE SHY!
WELL, COME IN. COME IN.
THANK YOU..
UH...I GUESS WE SHOULD GO TO MY ROOM...

ズズ…
SCOOT
SCOOT…
……
WHISH
すこ
すこ

SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
カラカラカラカラ
ラッシュ
SNIP
SNIP
ハサミ
ジャキ
SNIP

SNIP
シャキ
シャキ
シャキ
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
WHOA!!!
ゴラルラゴラカラ?
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
URABE!

TSUBAKI-KUN.
WHAT'S ALL THIS SHREDDED PAPER?!
WH-
WHAT IS THIS?!
YOU BOUGHT ANOTHER COPY OF MOMOKA IMAI'S PHOTO BOOK.
URABEEEEEI (CRY)
IT'S GONE!
IT'S...
YOU...
YOU DIDN'T...
SO ALL THIS SHREDDED PAPER IS...?
THIS IS
HERE.
A SOUVENIR FROM THE DAY OKA-SAN AND I WENT TO THE BEACH.
IT'S FOR YOU.

OH...
SOUVENIR?
BUT...
ROAR...
SINCE WE'RE HERE...
MAYBE WE SHOULD AT LEAST TAKE A PICTURE TO REMEMBER TODAY BY!
HEY, WHY DON'T WE TAKE A PICTURE OF THE TWO OF US TOGETHER?
THEN WE CAN EACH GIVE A COPY TO OUR BOYFRIENDS. HOW DOES THAT SOUND?

HMM
WITH ANOTHER GIRL IN IT?
YOU DON'T WANT TO GIVE TSUBAKI-KUN A PICTURE OF YOU
HMM...
IF IT'S WITH YOU, I DON'T MIND.
BUT,
WELL...
SINCE WE CAME ALL THE WAY TO THE BEACH,
EVEN IF WE DON'T SWIM...
SET THE TIMER...
WE'LL PUT IT HERE...
GREAT!
THAT SETTLES IT!
RUN
RUN
RUN
THERE! OKAY!

CLICK
WE SHOULD AT LEAST TAKE A PICTURE OF US IN OUR SWIMSUITS!
I HOPE YOU, TSUBAKI-KUN, UENO-KUN, AND I CAN ALL COME TO THE BEACH TOGETHER SOMETIME

END OF CHAPTER 26

CHAPTER 27: MYSTERIOUS MIDSUMMER GREETING

CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
LONG TIME NO SEE!
GRANDPA! GRANDMA!
WELL, WELL! HIROYUKI, YOUKO-CHAN, AKIRA-CHAN, WELCOME!
MECHANIC PANDA

IT'S THE HEIGHT OF SUMMER BREAK.
MY DAD, SISTER, AND I
ARE VISITING WITH MY DAD'S PARENTS.
CHIRP
CHIRP
BUT IT'S HOT OUT HERE IN THE STICKS, TOO...
IT WAS HOT IN TOKYO,
WHEW...
CHIRP
CHIRP
THANK YOU!
WELL, COME ON IN.
AKIRA-CHAN, YOU'VE GROWN SO BIG!
GRANDMA, THIS IS FOR YOU!
OF COURSE.
THANKS FOR LETTING US STAY.
MECHANIC PANDA

I'M LEAVING TOMORROW FOR A WEEK TO VISIT MY DAD'S PARENTS.
ACTUALLY, URABE...
ちゅっ SCHLP
HAVE A GOOD TIME, TSUBAKI-KUN.
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR LETTER.
OKAY.
BUT I'LL WRITE TO YOU WHILE I'M THERE!
OH...
I SEE...
SO OUR DAILY ROUTINE WILL BE TAKING A WEEK OFF...

AND NOW...
I WILL.
THIS IS OUR THIRD DAY
AT MY GRAND-PARENTS' HOUSE.
IT'S A BIG ONE!
NUMBER THREE FROM YAMADA HIGH, TANAKA, GETS A HIT!
HUH?
HM?
THAT'S ONE MORE RUN FOR YAMADA HIGH!
HE'S SAFE! HE'S SAFE!
WHERE ARE DAD AND SIS?
HEY, GRAND-MA!

OH, YEAH!
NOW'S A GOOD TIME TO WRITE THAT LETTER!
CATCHING MINNOWS ...
TO CATCH MINNOWS WITH GRANDPA.
THEY WENT TO THE RIVER
ゴリゴリ GRIND GRIND
HERE THEY ARE!
HUH?
SENDING ONE TO A FRIEND?
WELL ... YEAH ...
DO YOU HAVE ANY POSTCARDS? GRAND-MA,
YES, IN A DRAWER IN THE DRESSER...
"IS IT HOT IN TOKYO, TOO?"
"IT'S VERY HOT HERE."
"I HOPE YOU'RE DOING WELL IN THE MID-SUM-MER HEAT."
美琴様
"MIKOTA URABE-SAMA."
暑中お見舞い申し上げます

IS THE DAY OF THE FIRE-WORKS SHOW DOWNTOWN, RIGHT?
NEXT WEEK
THE FIRST DAY I'M MEETING URABE AGAIN
!
SPEAK-ING OF WHICH...

THERE!
"IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE YOU TO GO WITH ME."
"THERE'S A FIREWORKS SHOW DOWNTOWN NEXT WEEK."
OKAY! I'LL ADD THAT!

MEANS I DON'T GET TO TASTE URABE'S DROOL FOR A WEEK...
BEING HERE FOR A WEEK

URABE'S DROOL...

HM?

1008
風見台
夫琴様
暑中お見舞申し上げます
こっちはとても暑いですが東京も暑いですか
来週、中央町で花火大会があります
よかったら、一緒に行きたいです
椿
DONE!

NOW TO PUT ON THE STAMP ...
ペロッ

URABE,
STICK OUT YOUR TONGUE AND SAY "AHH♪"
京都☆
京都☆
京都☆

8月 AUGUST
LATER...

LICK
ペロン
ペロッ
STICK
NIPPON
180-1234
34
EHE HE HE ...
IT'LL GET TOO WET AND TEAR!
AKIRA-CHAN, WHY ARE YOU GRINNING AND TAKING SO LONG LICKING THAT STAMP?
HUH?
O-OH...
I WASN'T THINKING ...
AHAHA ...
PLUNK
トン
TO HAVE URABE LICK A STAMP FOR ME...
I'D LOVE

WE GOT A GREAT HAUL!
EXPO'70
GRANDMA!
WE'RE BACK!
WHY DON'T WE SLICE IT?
THERE'S A WATERMELON IN THE REFRIGERATOR.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN HOT OUT THERE.
MAYBE I'LL FRY THEM FOR DINNER TONIGHT.
MY,
YOU CERTAINLY DID!
SIS...
STAYING AT GRANDMA'S HAS MADE HER LIKE A KID AGAIN...
OH!
OKAY!
I'LL SLICE IT!!
TRAMPLE
TRAMPLE
YEAH!

AKIRA!
COME ON,
WE'RE GOING!
WHA—
ROAR
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
AHA HA HA
TV SIGN: COMEDY DEATHMATCH
SIS, WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?!
WE'RE GOING TO A FESTIVAL!
THERE'S A FESTIVAL ON THE HONGOU TEMPLE GROUNDS!
LET'S GO TOGETHER ♪
本郷手町内会

YOU WERE THE ONE DRAGGING ME OUT TO FESTIVALS!
WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE,
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'LL PASS...
EHH...
I'LL JUST STAY HERE AND WATCH TV...
NOW, COME ON!
カラン コロン カラン
お面
キャラクター

LEFT SIGN. COTTON CANDY

RIGHT SIGN. SOFT SERVE

SIGN. COTTON CANDY

WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, YOU ALWAYS GOT YOUR MOUTH STICKY CHOWING DOWN ON IT!
CHOMP
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU KNOW,
SINCE I BOUGHT IT, AT LEAST HAVE ONE BITE!
HERE!
BUT COTTON CANDY MAKES MY MOUTH ALL STICKY.
YOU SHOULD'VE GOTTEN ONE, TOO, AKIRA.

はむっ
CHOMP
HMPH...
広島焼名物
MM?
COME TO THINK OF IT,
FOR A WHILE NOW...
WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY?
IS HE LOOKING AT MY SISTER?
SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANY OF THESE GUYS, DOES SHE?
STARING AT HER...
THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF GUYS

MY SISTER IS KINDA PRETTY...
I GUESS
I'D NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE...

SIS!
HEY...
H-
!
SIS!
SHE AND I TOOK BATHS TOGETHER UNTIL I WAS IN THIRD GRADE OR SO...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,

I'M WORRIED THAT YOU'LL GET LOST.
WHAT?
BECAUSE,
IF I DON'T,

OH?
I'M A HIGH SCHOOL SECOND-YEAR!
NOW LISTEN...
N—
I'M NOT GOING TO GET LOST!!

WHY ARE YOU HOLDING MY HAND?
WH—
WHAT?
HM?

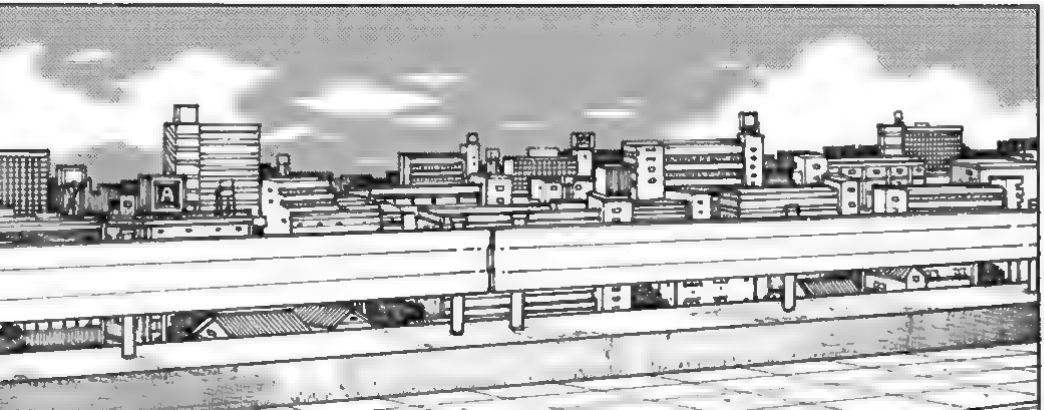
YOU'VE GOTTEN LOST AT THE HONGOU TEMPLE FESTIVAL BEFORE.
BUT...
WE HELD HANDS AS WE WALKED,
BUT SOMEHOW WE GOT SEPARATED IN THE CROWD AND YOU WANDERED OFF.
CAME TO THE FESTIVAL JUST LIKE TODAY.
YOU AND I
WHEN I WAS 16 AND YOU WERE 9,
SO I FRANTICALLY WENT LOOKING FOR YOU...
I WAS SURE YOU'D BE LOST AND CRYING SOMEWHERE,

LIGHTING FIRE-WORKS AND HAVING A GREAT TIME.
YOU WERE PLAYING
WITH SOME FAMILY WE DIDN'T KNOW,
AND I WAS COMPLETELY WRONG.
I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL THEN!!
I'M TELLING YOU!
SQUEEZE
FROM THEN ON, WHENEVER WE WERE IN A CROWD, I'D GET WORRIED AND GRAB YOUR HAND...
UNTIL THEN, EVEN MARRIAGE WILL HAVE TO...
I PROMISED MOM, YOU KNOW!
IT'S THE SAME WHETHER YOU'RE IN GRADE SCHOOL OR HIGH SCHOOL!
UNTIL YOU GRADUATE COLLEGE AND GET A JOB,
I'M GOING TO RAISE YOU UP RIGHT!
JUST...
SERIOUSLY, STOP!
DON'T EVEN SAY THAT!!

YOU CAN LEAVE HOME WHENEVER YOU WANT!
IF YOU FIND A GUY YOU REALLY LIKE,
LISTEN, SIS!
SMACK!!
I'LL JUDGE WHETHER HE'S RIGHT FOR YOU OR NOT...
WHEN YOU FIND A GUY YOU LIKE, BRING HIM TO ME!
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING CHEEKY FOR?!
DAD...
SINCE MOM IS GONE,
YOU BETTER INTRODUCE HER TO ME!
AS FOR YOU, WHEN YOU GET A GIRLFRIEND,
TAK TAK

ARE YOUR GUARDIANS!
...AND I...

IS THE DAY OF THE FIRE-WORKS AND THE SUMMER FESTIVAL...
I WONDER IF URABE WILL GO TO THE FESTIVAL WITH ME.
THE DAY I GET BACK TO TOKYO AND SEE URABE
COME TO THINK OF IT,
JEEZ...
I JUST CAN'T BEAT HER...



ORGONE BOX
URABE!
DID YOU HAVE FUN AT YOUR GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE?
TSUBAKI-KUN, LONG TIME NO SEE...
WH—
WHAT'S WITH THAT OUTFIT?!

I GOT YOUR LETTER.
WE'RE GOING TO SEE THE FIREWORKS TOGETHER TODAY, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY I WORE THIS...
OH...
SO...
FREEZE...
SHIVER
TSUBAKI-KUN,
IT'S BEEN A WEEK.
WE SHOULD START WITH OUR ROUTINE...
OH...
OKAY!
HERE...
SUCK

MY FIRST TASTE IN A WEEK OF URABE'S...
WHAT IS THIS?!
WH-
TSUBAKI-KUN...
MY NOSE IS BLEED-ING...
ORGONE BOX
PWAH!!!
ORGONE BOX
PLOP PLOP PLOP PLOP
IT MIGHT BE...
OH...
.....
WAS IT TOO MUCH EXCITEMENT AFTER A WEEK APART?
WHY?!
WH—

SO... YOU MEAN ...
WEARING THE UNDER-WEAR THAT GOES WITH MY YUKATA...
... BECAUSE I'M NOT
H-HEY, URABE ...
THAT'S DEFINITELY TOO MUCH EXCITEMENT ...!
I'M PERSONALLY VERY HAPPY... BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD WEAR IT...
BUT THIS YUKATA IS REALLY HOT... ESPECIALLY AROUND THE OBI...
ANYTHING UNDER THE YUKATA?
YOU'RE NOT WEARING
RIGHT.
SO GO PUT ON SOME UNDERWEAR! I'LL WAIT HERE!
NO, WE'LL BE IN A BIG CROWD TODAY, AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN...

THAT DAY WHEN I GOT LOST AT THE FESTIVAL AT AGE 9...
I'M STARTING TO REMEMBER ...
COME TO THINK OF IT,
GRANDMA, IS THE BATH READY?
OH, WELCOME BACK!
WE'RE BACK!
YES, IT IS.
HONESTLY!
AFTER RUNNING AROUND LOOKING FOR YOU,
I'M ALL SWEATY!
AKIRA!
WE'RE TAKING A BATH!

フアサッ
FWISH
パチ
SNAP
ニュルル…
SLIP…

SHE AND URABE ARE BOTH TOO UNGUARDED...
MY SISTER WASN'T WEARING ANYTHING UNDER HER YUKATA, EITHER...
NOMADs
TSUBAKI-KUN,
I'M GETTING SOME COTTON CANDY.
WANT ME TO BUY YOU ONE, TOO?
NAH, I'M GOOD.
SO, YOU LIKE COTTON CANDY, HUH?
YEAH.
CHOMP
はむっ

YOU BETTER INTRODUCE HER TO ME!
WHEN YOU GET A GIRL-FRIEND,
COME TO THINK OF IT, MY SISTER ATE COTTON CANDY AT THE FESTI-VAL NEAR OUR GRAND-PARENTS' HOUSE, TOO...
WALKING AROUND TOGETHER...
THE THREE OF US MIGHT END UP
INTRODUCE URABE TO MY SISTER, HUH?
IF I DO THAT...
ORGONE BOX
ORGONE BOX

END OF ✂ CHAPTER 27

CHAPTER 28: MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR

TSUBAKI!
UENO!
THE HOSHINOME GIRLS' ACADEMY CULTURE FESTIVAL THIS SUNDAY?
YOU GUYS WANNA GO TO
IT'S THE ALL GIRLS SCHOOL THAT HAYAKAWA GOES TO!
EVERYONE CALLED HER THE HOTTEST GIRL AT OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL!
BINGO!
WHERE THAT GIRL FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL...
ISN'T HOSHI-NOME GIRLS' ACADEMY...
HOSHINOME GIRLS' ACADEMY?!?

I WANNA SEE HOW HAYAKAWA LOOKS SINCE SHE STARTED HIGH SCHOOL.
WANNA GO?
REGARDLESS, IT'S AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL'S CULTURE FESTIVAL!
UH...
I HEARD THIS FROM A GIRL WHO WAS IN MY CLASS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME...
BESIDES,
AND SHE'S REALLY DOWN ABOUT IT!
IN FACT, SHE GOT DUMPED.
OH...
SHE SAID HAYAKAWA AND HER BOYFRIEND JUST SPLIT UP RECENTLY.
UENO.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WELL?
I MIGHT JUST HAVE MY EYE ON HER!
WANNA GO?
THAT'S WHAT NISHIDA SAID...

I'M NOT GOING.
WHOA! QUICK RESPONSE!
WELL, WHY SHOULD I GO?
I'VE GOT
OKA, AFTER ALL!
IF YOUR GIRL-FRIEND
WENT TO AN ALL BOYS SCHOOL?
CULTURE FESTIVAL IN SECRET TO SQUEAL OVER THE BOYS
AND SEE SOME HOT GUY SHE KNEW IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
WOULD YOU LIKE IT?
I WON'T DO ANYTHING I WOULDN'T WANT OKA TO DO!
WOW...
BUT NO IS REALLY, LOVABLE, OKA!
I GUESS YOU'D CALL IT TREATING OTHERS AS YOU WOULD WANT THEM TO TREAT YOU?
BUT HE'S REALLY GOOD TO OKA!
FEEL LIKE HE'S GIVING TOO MUCH THOUGHT TO A SIMPLE CULTURE FESTIVAL, BUT HIS DEVOTION IS IMPRESSIVE IN ITSELF.

HAYAKAWA BUT,
OF COURSE, I'VE GOT LIKING TOO... SO I UNDERSTOOD WHAT HE'S SAYING...
WAS MY FIRST LOVE AND THE GIRL I CRUSHED ON ALL THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL...
THE WAY HER BLACK HAIR GLINTED AS IT WAVED IN THE BREEZE...
SO HAYAKAWA HAD A BOYFRIEND...
AND HE RECENTLY DUMPED HER...
I LITERALLY GAVE THANKS TO GOD...
AND REALIZED THAT I COULD GAZE AT HER BEAUTIFUL HAIR EVERY DAY...
WHEN I WAS PLACED BEHIND HAYAKAWA AFTER A SEAT CHANGE.

AH, WHAT SHOULD I DO...
BUT I'D KIND OF LIKE TO SEE HER.
I DON'T HAVE THAT SORT OF LUTEROUS MOTIVE...
NO,
I MIGHT JUST HAVE MY EYE ON HER!
TSUBAKI-KUN
AH!
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING.
OH...
STARING INTO SPACE?
WHY ARE YOU
WHAT IS IT?
HUH?

HERE,
TODAY'S
ROUTINE...
OKAY.
ER,
WELL...
I TASTE YOUR DROOL EVERYDAY.
WHAT'S WRONG, TSUBAKI-KUN?
.....
.....
!
BUT IT JUST HIT ME AGAIN...

REALLY?
URABE ...
IS REALLY SWEET.
THAT YOUR DROOL...
.....
I WON'T GO TO THE HOSHINOME GIRLS' ACADEMY CULTURE FESTIVAL.
I WON'T DO IT.
OH.
JUST TALKING TO MYSELF...
NOTHING
AHA HA HA...
EVEN IF THE GIRL I ONCE HAD A CRUSH ON IS THERE...
?
WHAT?
WON'T DO...
WON'T DO IT!!
THAT'S IT!

WELL...
SEE YOU TOMORROW, TSUBAKI-KUN.
OKAY!
SEE YA!
MY GIRLFRIEND...
IS STILL URABE...
BUZZ BUZZ MOMOKA MAIL
今井百花
MOMOKA IMAI
THIS WEEK'S ISSUE OF TV CITY THAT COMES OUT TODAY IS A SPECIAL MOMOKA IMAI ISSUE...
COME TO THINK OF IT...
HM?
IS BECAUSE SHE LOOKS LIKE URABE.
BESIDES, THE ONLY REASON I LIKE MOMOKA IMA...
SO SHE SHOULD FORGIVE ME FOR THIS LITTLE INFIDELITY.
WELL I'M NOT GOING TO THE CULTURE FESTIVAL.
I'M GONNA STOP BY THE BOOK-STORE!
DASH!
MEANWHILE HONDA, THE GIRL I'VE BEEN ACCEPT SHE'S NEVER ACCEPT THAT, THIS LOVE...

THAT'LL BE 480 YEN.
TV CITY
BOOK CENTER
Tomy
BOOK CENTER
CD
Tomy's
HEH HEH HEH..
THE SPECIAL MOMOKA IMAI ISSUE!
Tomy
CD
TSUBAKI-KUN?
HUH?

HUH...!
?
ON A FRIDAY
UH...
REMEMBER ME?
YOU DON'T.
UMM...
?
OH...
YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME SINCE I CUT MY HAIR?
HA—

HAYAKAWA?!
BINGO ♪
YOUR HAIR...
YOU...
I HAD NO IDEA...
Y-YEAH,
I PERSONALLY LIKE IT...
SCHNIPP
AH, IMAGE.
YES, I CUT IT.
WHY?!
SHE CUT THAT BEAUTIFUL LONG HAIR...
BUT NONE OF MY FRIENDS SEEM TO.
THEY SAID IT WAS BETTER BEFORE...
EVEN MY FRIENDS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL
YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS ME?
AHA HA...
DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME IN PASSING?

OH...
HAYAKAWA AND HER BOYFRIEND JUST SPLIT UP RECENTLY.
SO THAT'S WHY.
SHE CUT HER...?!
O—
OKAY!
I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL AND HOW OUR FRIENDS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL ARE DOING...!
SINCE WE RAN INTO EACH OTHER,
WHY DON'T WE GO SOMEWHERE AND TALK?
SAY,
TSUBAKI-KUN
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE, (TSUBAKI-KUN)?
HUH?
UH... AN ICED COFFEE.
GOT IT!
120 YEN... 120 YEN...
UH...
HERE!

HOW ARE THEY DOING?
ARE AT KAZAMIDAI WITH YOU, RIGHT?
UENO-KUN AND NISHIDA-KUN
I'M THE ONE WHO ASKED YOU TO COME WITH ME
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
IT'S MY TREAT!!
SHE WEARS GLASSES, AND SHE'S SHORT WITH A NICE BODY...
WELL...
OH, UENO-KUN DID!
OH, BUT UENO GOT A GIRLFRIEND.
THEY'RE JUST AS BAD AS THEY WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
WELL, THEY HAVEN'T CHANGED.
WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
ME?!
I...
DO YOU
HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
HUH?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
AND...

I WAS SURE YOU HAD A GIRL-FRIEND, TOO.
WHAT?
REALLY?
I DON'T HAVE...
A GIRL-FRIEND
BUT YOU DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE ME EARLIER.
WELL, YOU WERE ALWAYS LOOKING AT ME BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
WHY?
HUH?
SOME OTHER GIRL YOU'RE SO INTO THAT YOU COULD FORGET ABOUT ME.
THERE MUST BE...
SO I THOUGHT,
I KNEW.
YES,
HAYA-KAWA.
YOU...
EVEN THOUGH MY HAIR WAS DIFFERENT.
YOU'D RECOGNIZE ME WHEN I CALLED OUT TO YOU.
I WAS SO SURE
I WAS A LITTLE SHOCKED THAT YOU DIDN'T!

THE THREE YEARS WE WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
YOU HAD A CRUSH ON ME
YOU ALWAYS
IT WAS FUNNY WHEN YOU ENDED UP IN THE SEAT BEHIND ME ONCE.
YOU SPENT MORE TIME LOOKING AT MY BACK THAN AT THE CHALKBOARD.
YOU COULD TELL I WAS LOOKING AT YOU?
USED TO WATCH ME, RIGHT?
YEAH
MY PENCIL CASE HAD A MIRROR UNDER THE LID.

I THOUGHT, "OH, HE'S STARING AT MY BACK AGAIN."
I COULD SEE YOU IN THE SEAT BEHIND ME.
BACK
THOUGH, ACTUALLY, THAT'S RIGHT...
I WAS STARING AT YOUR HAIR.
YOUR HAIR WAS
REALLY PRETTY
I THOUGHT
DID YOU EVER
WANT TO TOUCH IT?
SO,
WHEN YOU STARED AT MY HAIR,
WH—
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?

BECAUSE YOUR REACTIONS ARE SO FUNNY.
I COULDN'T STOP ASKING QUESTIONS
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
AHA HA HA ...
YOU SEE.
I JUST BROKE UP WITH MY BOYFRIEND ...
WELL, HE BROKE UP WITH ME...
SO IT KIND OF FEELS GOOD TO HEAR YOU SAY
THAT YOU USED
TO LIKE ME...
SORRY.
...
IF TALKING ABOUT MY CRUSH HELPS YOU REGAIN YOUR CONFIDENCE...
I'LL KEEP GOING.
IF...
N—
NAH.

I SAW A CLIP KIND OF RANDOMLY IN YOUR CHAIR.
AND YOU GOT UP.
ONE TIME.
WHEN YOU WERE IN YOUR SEAT...

AND...
AND I WOULD SOMETIMES TAKE IT OUT TO LOOK AT IT.
WELL, I-I'D...
THEN I'D PUT IN A PLASTIC CONTAINER.
Sealed
SO I'D BE ABLE TO SMELL IT WHENEVER I WANTED.

GROSS. YOU OUT?
G-
DID THAT JUST...
DID...
ER...
TO SMELL IT...

I ONCE STOLE A CUP THAT WAS USED BY THE PERSON I LIKED...
NO, NOT REALLY.
AND I WOULD KISS THE CUP WHERE HE HAD PLACED HIS LIPS.
ISN'T THAT SORT OF THING NORMAL?
NO, THAT'S NOT NORMAL.
YOUR STORIES ARE FUN TO LISTEN TO!
STILL...
R-
REALLY?
WELL, ANYWAY...
I'M SURE YOU'RE FEELING DOWN AFTER THE BREAKUP,
BUT CHEER UP.
I'LL TRY!

YOU'RE A REALLY CUTE AND SWEET GIRL!
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT ANY GUY WOULD DUMP YOU.
BESIDES,
I MEAN,
I HAD A CRUSH ON YOU FOR THREE YEARS.
I SHOULD KNOW.
YEAH.
ITO
I...

UH...
UH...
WAAAH!
I MADE HER CRY.
WHY DO I DO?
IT MUST REALLY BE HARD FOR HER...
WAAAAAAH!...
A REALLY NICE GIRL! REALLY!
H-
HAYAKAWA, DON'T BE SO DOWN...
I CAN GUARANTEE THAT YOU'RE

SO...
WH-WHAT? HATAKAWA'S FACE LOOKS...
REALLY CUTE FOR SOME REASON
IT'S NOT THE SAME AS WHEN LONG HAIR FROM BEFORE
BUT SHE'S NEVER LOOKED SO...
OH...

THERE'S DROOL COMING OUT OF HER MOUTH...
DROOL...
I'D LIKE TO GET
EVERY NOW AND THEN,
TOGETHER AND TALK.
FROM TIME TO TIME?
CAN WE MEET
DROOL THAT ISN'T UKABE'S.
HEY,
TSUBAKI-KUN.
IS THAT OKAY?

FROM ANOTHER GIRL TASTES LIKE...
I WONDER WHAT DROOL
TA—
IF YOU'LL LET ME...
IF... I-
TASTE YOUR DROOL...
THEN I'LL...
ER...
S-SORRY!!
JUST KIDDING! THAT WAS A JOKE!
SORRY I SAID SOMETHING SO—
FORGET I SAID IT!
IF I LET YOU...
BLUSH
BLUSH

SEE ME AGAIN?
YOU'LL COME
...TASTE MY DROOL...
HUH...?
I'LL BE BACK!

END OF CHAPTER 28